

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending. Claims 1-32 are currently amended to more clearly define pre-existing claim limitations. No claims are canceled. No claims are added. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 9-10, 15-16, 25-26, and 31-31 stand objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all intervening claim limitations.

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-2, 4, 17-18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,078,402 to Fischer et al. (hereinafter "Fischer")

Claims 3, 5-8, 11-14, 19, 21-24, and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fischer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,697 to Bland et al. (hereinafter "Bland").

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. In particular, the Office Action stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of "the starting address location." Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 17 have been amended to more clearly

define pre-existing claim limitations. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Given that claims 2-16 and 18-32 depend from independent claims 1 and 17, respectively, Applicant requests that the rejections of claims 2-16 and 18-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 17-18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

CLAIMS 1-2 AND 4

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference because Fischer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method, comprising:
 scanning an address space to locate a structure;
 determining a starting address location of the structure; and
 accessing a register located within the structure by adding a predetermined offset to the starting address location of the structure.
(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's characterization of the prior art and submits that Fischer fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim. In particular, Fischer does not disclose accessing a register located within the structure by adding a predetermined offset to the starting address location of the structure.

Fischer is directed to a peripheral device that locates shareable resources on an accessory (I/O card) by using an offset mechanism on the accessory. Fischer, Abstract. Fischer discloses using a base address that is stored in the memory of the accessory and that provides a general reference point for locating a memory location (e.g., offset register), which contains the offset values to the accessory resources. The base address indicates the location of the offset register, and not the starting address location of one particular accessory resource. In other words, the base address and the offset contained in the offset register indicate the starting address location of the particular accessory

resource. Nothing in Fischer discloses accessing a register located within the structure by adding a predetermined offset to the starting address location of the structure.

In contrast, claim 1 recites “accessing a register located within the structure by adding a predetermined offset to the starting address location of the structure.” For the reasons stated above, Fischer fails to disclose all of the limitations of claim 1. In particular, Fischer does not disclose accessing a register located within the structure by adding a predetermined offset to the starting address location of the structure. Given that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Given that claims 2 and 4 depend from independent claim 1, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2 and 4 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the rejection of claims 3, 5-8, 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CLAIMS 17-18 AND 20

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fischer. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is patentable over the cited reference for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to claim 1.

Given that claims 18 and 20 depend from independent claim 17, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 18 and 20 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the rejection of claims 19, 21-24, and 27-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

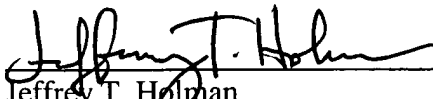
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Michael Mallie at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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